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Vol. XVI.

OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN.

To the House of Representatives
of the United States.

In compliance with the resolution of the 24th, I transmit two letters from the envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of Spain, to the Secretary of State, with his answer.

JAMES MADISON.

January 26th, 1816.

Translation of a letter from the Minister of Spain to the Secretary of State, dated Washington, Dec. 30, 1815.

SIR—The diplomatic relations between the king, my master, and the United States, being happily restored, and both governments being disposed, mutually to strengthen the ties of the most pure and perfect friendship, it is my duty to inform the President of whatever may contribute to so desirable an object; and remove the obstacles which may prevent it. On the important points on which this note must turn, I have written to you under other circumstances less favorable than the present. I will now confine myself to a plain and simple explanation of them.

The first of these points is: that the direct and official relations between Spain and the United States, having been broken off, since the year 1808, the affairs of both nations, as well as their respective frontiers, should now be placed in the same state and situation in which they were at that period; and that, in conformity to this principle, the part of West Florida, which the United States took possession of during the glorious insurrection of Spain, and have retained until this day, should be restored to his catholic majesty. This just and conciliatory measure, at the same time that it will convince the king, my master, of the purity and sincerity of the sentiments of the American government, and of their disposition to arrange and terminate amicably the several points of negotiation, will not, in the least, impair the right which it may believe it has to the whole, or a part of the territory occupied, since it will remain subject, exactly as it was before its occupation, to a frank and friendly discussion between the two governments.

The second point is, as simple and obvious as the first, and I will treat of it with that confidence, with which I ought to be inspired by the indisputable justice of my importunity, the justification of the American government, and the importance of the affair.

It is known to you, and is universally public and notorious, that a factious band of insurgents and incendiaries continue with impunity, in the province of Louisiana, and especially in New-Orleans and Natchitoches, the uninterrupted system of raising and arming troops, to light the flame of revolution in the kingdom of New Spain, and to rob the pacific inhabitants of the dominions of the king, my master. The invasion of the internal provinces, the horrible assassinations committed in San Antonio de Bexar, & the names of the perfidious perpetrators of such unheard of crimes, have acquired the publicity, which great crimes always will acquire. All Louisiana has witnessed these armaments; the public enlistments (los enganches publicos); the transportation of arms; the junction of the insurgents and their hostile and warlike march from the territory of this republic against the possessions of a friendly and neighboring power; neither threats, nor the laws, nor the indignation of well disposed citizens, nor even the proclamation of the President of the 1st of September last, intended to restrain these highway robbers, have been sufficient to stop their nefarious plans. On the contrary, they prosecute them with the greatest ardor and rancour, more and more exasperated at seeing the glorious triumphs of the Spanish nation, the adhesion of his subjects to an adored monarch, and the approaching re-establishment of the relations between our respective nations. It is known to you, that they are now enlisting, in New-Orleans, men for other expeditions, both by land and water, to invade again the dominions of his catholic majesty, under the direction of the ringleaders Jose Alvarez de Toledo, and Jose Manuel de Herrera, who had just arrived at that city, with the appointment (as he says) of Minister to

the United States, from the self-styled Mexican Congress, who has delivered to Toledo fifteen hundred commissions in blank, from that body of insurgents, that he may confer them on a like number of officers which he is recruiting in this Union. I omit mentioning to you other innumerable acts of this kind, which prove the publicity of these armaments, and the impunity with which they continue. I will confine myself to stating to you, that the most common practice of nations, and the authority of the best writers on public law, would give a right to the king, my master, to require of this government to deliver up these traitors, as incendiaries, enemies of all social order, and disturbers of the peace of his subjects; but as the object of my sovereign is not to avenge himself of this banditti, but to shield his subjects against their barbarity, I confine myself to asking of you to obtain of the President orders for the prosecution of the principal persons concerned in this sedition, that is to say: Jose Alvarez de Toledo; Anaya Ortiz; the self-styled minister, Manuel de Herrera; Doctor Robinson, Humbert; Majors Piere and Preire and their followers, that they may be punished with all the rigor, which the laws prescribe in cases of this kind. That the troops which they have raised, may be disarmed and dispersed, and that the necessary measures be taken to prevent, in future, these evil spirits from having an opportunity of pursuing their designs, and attempting to compromise the good intelligence which subsists between our respective governments. The President cannot but have seen with sensibility, as well the total want of effect of his proclamation, of the lenient measures which he had adopted against these criminals, who boast of recognizing no law, subordination or moral principle, as the protection and support which they have received and do receive from the authorities at New Orleans, contrary to his express orders. His excellency, as he is charged by this republic with watching over its security and the observance of its treaties and laws, cannot but consider himself authorized to restrain the projects and hostile measures of a set of adventurers, who make war against a friendly power from the territory of this confederation, compromising its tranquility and high character, by availing himself of the means which the constitution, the laws and his prudence offer to him for obliging these persons to abandon their designs, and to manifest to his catholic majesty the just indignation with which the United States view the hostile plans, and the sedition of that band of incendiaries. I am certain that it cannot be concealed from the distinguished talents of the President and yourself, that the point of which I treat, is not one under the civil (or municipal) law, in which case my sovereign must have recourse to the ordinary tribunals; but that it is a manifest and flagrant violation of the most sacred laws which bind together nations mutually—perpetrated by the citizens, or residents of the Union, of which the king, my master, gives information, with positive and notorious proofs, to the government under whose jurisdiction it has been executed, that they may give him competent satisfaction, with a knowledge of the act, by causing the delinquents to be punished as guilty of high treason against both governments.

The third and last point is reduced to this: that the President will be pleased to give necessary orders to the collectors of customs, not to admit into the ports of the United States, vessels under the insurrectionary flag of Cartagena, of the Mexican Congress, of Buenos Ayres, or of the places which have revolted against the authority of the king, my master, nor those coming from them. That they should not permit them to land, or to sell in this country, the shameful proceeds of their piracy, or atrocities, and much less to equip themselves in these ports, as they do, for the purpose of going to sea, to destroy and to plunder the vessels which they meet with under the Spanish flag. This tolerance, subversive of the most solemn stipulations in the treaties between Spain and the United States, and diametrically opposed to the general principles of public security and good faith, and to the laws of nations, produces the most melancholy effects on the interest and

the property of the subjects of his catholic majesty. Certain it is, that neither Cartagena, nor any other place in the Spanish dominions in this hemisphere, which has revolted, can be in communication with any power friendly to Spain, since neither on its part, nor on that of any other government, has their independence been acknowledged; and it is, consequently, an offence against the dignity of the Spanish monarchy, and against the sovereignty of the king, my master, to admit vessels from such places, manned and commanded by insurgents, & armed in the dominions of this confederation; particularly as they are all pirates, who do not respect any flag, are justly considered the disgrace of the seas, and are execrated by all nations.

The three preceding points are of such established equity and justice, that it would be offensive to the delicacy of this government to suppose, that it could delay, under any pretext, to determine on them, in the manner I have proposed, and which I have an express order to request, (solicitar,) in the name of the king, my master. The prompt interposition of the President, that his majesty may be gratified, would be a new testimony of his friendly disposition towards Spain, an evident proof that he is determined to put an end to the incalculable extortions and injuries which Spain has suffered, for the space of seven, from the gang of adventurers who have assailed her from the bosom of this republic; a means of fixing the frank and sincere system of good neighborhood which so much interests both states; and finally, a sure preliminary to the removal of all the difficulties which may present themselves in the negotiations, which ought to terminate all the pending discussions between the two governments, and to fix for ever between them a perpetual and solid friendship.

If, as I flatter myself, the President gives all the attention which is due to affairs of such transcendent importance, and yields to my solicitations, I can assure his excellency, and yourself, that there will be nothing which the king, my master, will not be disposed to do, to satisfy this republic, which may be compatible with his dignity & with the interests of his subjects.

I renew to you the assurances of my particular respect, and of my constant desire to please you, and pray God to preserve your life many years.

(Signed) LOUIS DE ONIS.
Washington, Dec. 30, 1815.
Hon. James Monroe, &c. &c.

Translation which accompanied a Note of the 2d January, 1816, from the Chevalier de Onis, to the Secretary of State.

SIR—Since the last note I had the honor to address to you, under the date of the 30th of December, I have received positive information that the expedition which the traitor Toledo was preparing in New-Orleans, against the dominions of the king, my master, has been suspended until the arrival at that city of two bodies of troops, one thousand men from Kentucky, and three hundred from Tennessee, commanded by two American citizens, that were to be united in twenty-four days to the army of the insurgents. I abstain, sir, from offering to you any observations on a subject of such high importance, and so well established. I am well persuaded that his excellency the President will easily perceive that if the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana and Georgia, continue, as they do, allowing their citizens to commit hostilities against a friendly power, notwithstanding the orders he has issued for dispersing and disarming the gang of desperadoes, headed by Toledo, Humbert, Anaya, Bernado, Suterier, Istri, Doctor Robinson, Majors Burie and Preire, and their followers, the king, my master, will have reason to suspect, that if those meetings are not authorized by the government, they are at least tolerated. All the assurances I may give to my sovereign, of the friendly dispositions of his Excellency the President, will not suffice, when compared with the evident proofs I had the honor to communicate to you in this and my former note; particularly when his majesty is well convinced of the resources and authority of the federal government, and the promptitude with which their orders are strictly observed in the whole Union. I do not entertain any

apprehension of the result of the expedition of those incendiaries. The European wars being terminated, his majesty will be able to direct all his attention and his powerful armies, to stifle at once the growth of that insurrection; but the philanthropic heart of my sovereign, the humanity by which he is distinguished, and which constitutes the character of the Spanish nation, induce him to wish to re-establish order among the seduced, rather by mildness than by the force of arms, which cannot be effected without the effusion of the blood of his beloved subjects. This object cannot fail to be obtained as soon as the Mexican insurgents, and those of the internal provinces, cease to be furnished by the citizens of this republic, with arms, ammunition, and troops.

I shall never have the vain presumption to offer you, or the wise magistrate that is at the head of this administration, any observations on the consequences that might result against the interests of this republic by the independence of Spanish America. My wishes are only directed to equal you in moderation, and to re-establish, on the most firm and permanent basis, the relations between our governments. This sincere desire will, I hope, serve as an apology for me, while I take the liberty to present an hypothesis in this note.

I grant, for a moment, that all the Mexican empire erects itself into an independent state; that it adopts the wise constitution of this confederation; establishes a complete system of legislation; and, finally, that it enjoys all the blessings of liberty, in the same full extent as this republic. It is beyond question that the climate of Mexico is more temperate than that of the United States; the soil richer and more productive; the productions and fruits more abundant, rich, and of a superior quality; and that provisions, labor, wood, houses, clothing, &c. are, in consequence of the mildness and regularity of the climate, much cheaper than in this country. If this event should take place, do you not think, sir, as I do, that so many alluring prospects, and so many evident advantages, will deprive this republic of the successive emigrations from Europe; and, what is more, of a very considerable part of the most useful and industrious inhabitants of this confederation, who would carry with them to Mexico their flour and saw mills, machines, manufactures, their enterprising genius, in a word, their general instruction, and all the means that actually promote and vivify the commerce of these States? I flatter myself that this event will not happen; but I am fully convinced that the consequence of this hypothesis can be demonstrated with mathematical certainty; and that if the citizens of Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana & Georgia, should reflect deeply on this subject, far from giving any aid to those vagabonds, greedy of the acquisition of gold, and regardless of the happiness of their country, they would unite themselves with the authorities of the king, my master, to punish that gang of perfidious traitors, that hide themselves in these States, with the criminal design of devastating their country. I hope, sir, you will have the goodness to overlook this digression, to which I have been carried by my warm desire of strengthening the most perfect friendship between the two nations, and to inform his excellency the President, that the orders I claim in his catholic majesty's name, directed to the trial and punishment of the ringleaders of these armies, and to the prohibition of exporting arms, of any kind, from this country to the provinces, against my sovereign's authority, are of the greatest importance, and are supported by the existing treaty of friendship, limits and navigation, between Spain and the United States, especially the 16th article.

I expect, sir, your answer to these important points, and I have the honor to be, &c. &c. &c.

(It is the Secretary of State's answer on 4th page.)

NOTICE.

MERCHANTS and others are requested to furnish an article on the credit of the "Theatrical Society" unless by a written order signed by the President or Vice-President.

T. W. SCOTT, Sec'y.
Raleigh, Jan. 25, 1816.

FORTY DOLLARS REWARD.

TOLENT from Samuel Lusk, Maryville, Tennessee, on the 22d December last, a BLACK MALE, 15 hands high, 7 or 8 years old, both hind feet white, also a star in her forehead, swab tail, and marked with the letters. Also at the same time, a BLACK HORSE, about the same age and size and of the same description. They were taken out of the wagon by a man who calls himself James Edmiston, about 25 years of age, fair complexion, cross-eyed, with homespun clothes; who says he came lately from Pittsylvania county, Virginia, to Blount county, Tennessee, where he sold said horses. Any person securing said horses, together with said Edmiston, will be entitled to the above reward, or a part for either of them, by forwarding information to

SAMUEL LUSK.

Blount county, Tenn. Jan. 7, 1816.

SHERIFF'S SALES.

ON THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF APRIL 1816, WILL BE SOLD, AT STORES COURT HOUSE, in GRANVILLE, the following Tracts of LAND, lying in said County, or so much thereof as will pay the Taxes due thereon and costs of advertising, &c. viz.

- 430 Acres given in by Aaron Ritter, lying on the Meadow Branch, near the Surry county line for the years 1813 and 1814.
- 106 By James Evans, on waters of the Double Creek for 1814.
- 171 By John Elrod, on Muddy Creek, adjoining Casper Stul's, Jun. and others near the old Town Mills, for 1814.
- 100 By Azariah Doss, on waters of the Little Yadkin, adjoining the lines of Wm. Rand, Esq. and Spanhours for 1813 and 1814.
- 100 By Jacob Fieles, adjoining Boyles's lands and others for 1814.
- 100 By John Kelley, Jun. adjoining John Kelley, Sen. on the waters of the Little Yadkin, for 1814.
- 60 By Leonard Fulk, on waters of the Little Yadkin, adjoining Adam Fulk, for 1814.
- 60 By Daniel Fulk, on the same waters, adjoining the same, for 1814.
- 50 By David McGinnis, on waters of Dan River, in Peter's Creek District, including his improvement, for 1814.
- 141 By Wm. Nelson, on Waters of Dan River including his plantation from which he removed, for 1814.
- 100 By John Campbell, his plantation on waters of Buck Island, adjoining Chs. Wilson, for 1813 and 1814.
- 100 By Andrew Fults, on waters of Muddy Creek, in Yadkin District, for 1813 and 1814.
- 92 By Henry Eccles on waters of Muddy Creek, in Salem District, for 1813 & 1814.
- 34 By Jacob Dravin, on the waters of the Yadkin, including his improvement, for 1814.
- 161 By Michael Idle, adjoining Wm. Dunlaps, on waters of Muddy Creek, for 1814.
- 156 By Robert Elrod, on Muddy Creek, his former plantation, for the year 1813.
- 51 Not given in, on waters of Blue's Creek, near the Rockingham countv line, adjoining Const. Ladd, and belonging to Wm. Dawson's heirs, for 1813 & 1814.
- 50 Acres on the waters of the Little Yadkin, patented to Abel Edwards, adjoining Thos. Smith, Esq. not given in for 1813 and 14.
- 35 Not given in, patented to the heirs of Wm. Moreland, adjoining Jno. James' heirs, on waters of Town Fork, for 1813 and 14.
- 80 Not given in—patented to Benj. Forsyth, adjoining Wm. Blackburn, Esq. and Mary Ladd, on waters of Dan River, for 1813 and 14.
- 97 Not given in—patented to Benj. Forsyth, and Wm. Banner, on waters of Free's Creek, adjoining Henry Waller, for 1813 and 14.
- One third part of 300 acres, on Snow Creek, including what is called Perkins's Old Forge and Burnace. Supposed to belong to the heirs of Harry Terrell, dec. not given in for the years 1813 and 14.
- 200 Acres given in by Garrett Stanley for 1813 and not given for 1814. Part of which land adjoins Wm. Stetle on the waters of Little Yadkin, say 130 acres, and 70 adjoins Christopher Stanley, on Town Fork waters.
- 50 Given in by James Cardin for 1813, and not given in for 1814, on waters of Town Fork, adjoining Robt. Cardin.
- 200 By Thos. Brown, on the Hollow Road to waters of the Little Yadkin, adjoining Thos. Smith, for 1813 and 14.
- 59 By Eleven Jones, on the same waters, for 1813 and 14.
- 1150 By Thos. Yarrall, for 1813 and for 1814, not given in—lying in several tracts, 350 of which adjoins Fort Southern on Blackey's branch of Dan River; 200 adjoining Alexander Rowler's on waters of Neets mon Creek, and the balance on the same waters, but not known who it adjoins.
- 2 Lots in Vienna or Brook's Town, not given in for the years 1813 and 1814, one of which was assessed in the name of James Wellborn, the other in the name of Martin Holder.
- 51 Acres not given in—patented to the heirs of Daniel Weaver, adjoining the widow Mitchell's and Yarrall's land, on Blackey's Branch, for 1814.
- 110 By Joseph Bowles, near Cook's, in Shores Reed District, on waters of Town Fork, for 1814.
- 554 By Edwin Barham, near Lawness' in Deep River District, for 1814.
- 50 By Jno. Bibbe, on waters of Leek or Blue's Creek, adjoining Micajah Allen, for the years 1813 and 14.
- 369 By John Craden, on Muddy Creek, adjoining Joshua Horner, for 1813.
- 100 By Wm. Penegar, on Mill Creek, including a Mill, for 1813.

C. HANNER, Sarr.
Stokes, 22d Jan. 1816.